their interest in sport or cultural activities with people who are prepared to billet them. This can be taken much further through other churches, old boys' and girls' associations and service clubs which should be able to get in and help. Above all, Governments, both State and Federal, must realise that the provision of reasonable residential accommodation for country students in centres of study is as necessary as the provision of lecture theatres and laboratories.

The cost of education is high, and we cannot duck it. I am not the first speaker tonight, and I will not be the last this year, to demand that much more money be allocated to education. I know that money is tight and that it cannot be created out of nothing. It is a matter of priorities and taking money from places where it is not needed as much.

Sir William Knox: They pay $40m a year in pay-roll tax.

Mr BEARD: Yes, in pay-roll tax, and I believe that this is included in part of the expenditure for education, which is false.

I urge the Minister for Education and the Minister for Employment to get all the muscle they can, get in amongst the other cowboys in the Cabinet and ensure that they get increased allocations for what they are trying to do, because there is no better investment of this State's money than in education, whether it be for life under Mr Littleproud or for vocation under Mr Lester.

Hon. V. P. LESTER (Peak Downs—Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Affairs) (11.04 p.m.), in reply: I sincerely thank all honourable members for taking part in this debate tonight. Generally speaking, I believe that everyone tried to be constructive, which is good, because this Bill involves an attempt to make more education of a better quality available to more people.

The honourable member for Nudgee raised the issue of apprenticeship intakes. The intake for the last 12 months was 5 970, which is an increase on the previous figure of 5 251 for the same period 12 months ago. This is the fourth-highest intake over the last 12 years. In addition he raised the issue of the 1985 committee on employment. One of the outcomes of this committee was the provision of four new TAFE facilities for training in the hospitality industry, which has generated employment. Another outcome of this committee concerned the Queensland Industry Development Corporation and support for traineeships in the private sector in Queensland, which is better than in the rest of Australia. In addition 2 200 traineeships have been created and the number created in the private sector, which is 1 500, is the highest per capita in any State.

The honourable member for Nudgee also raised the intake of apprentices in the building industry. In the last 12 months 562 apprenticeships were entered into for carpenters and joiners. In 1987 the intake was 370 and in 1986 the intake was 479. The current intake is the highest since 1982. The member for Nudgee obviously supported the Bill. I thank him for what I believe were the constructive comments he made during his contribution. He quoted a number of statistics on employment. Not all of those figures are as good as we would like them to be, and that is one of the reasons why the Government has moved to establish the new department, which will take into consideration the various suggestions that many people have made.

The member for Ashgrove, Mr Sherlock, spoke about medical schools and all sorts of other things. The university is funded by the Commonwealth and its Act is administered by the Minister for Education.

As the member for Mansfield has pointed out so often, TAFE has been to the forefront in the introduction of technology into industry. This is happening in some of our more progressive TAFE colleges. This leadership will be continued with the encouragement of flair throughout the department. The department certainly will be encouraging entrepreneurial expertise. I thank the member for Mansfield for his constructive support for the Bill.